

workers and laborers to engineers and scientists, and all of these are good-paying jobs. For every mile of road that is repaved from Houston to El Paso, we will be supporting roadway workers and construction workers. For every electrical line that is repaired to be more reliable in the cold, we will be supporting electricians and engineers. And for every lead pipe that is replaced to keep our children safe, we will be supporting plumbers, laborers, and other workers.

Altogether, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is just about that: rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in the future, and bringing jobs, jobs, jobs to our communities.

I am looking forward to seeing these projects come together in my home State, and I am grateful for the leadership of our President and this Congress in making sure that this can get to all communities in our country.

Together we will truly build back better for Texas.

HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Build Back Better Act.

Together with the historic infrastructure investments signed into law by President Biden earlier this week, working families like the one I grew up in will be able to get back on their feet and succeed in an economy that finally works for them.

Now, I have talked about my childhood on the floor of the people's House before. My dad was a union ironworker, and like his union brothers and sisters have done for decades, he worked long, hard hours to provide for my three sisters and me. When there wasn't work for him at home in Massachusetts, he would travel out of State erecting bridges and buildings in New York, Maine, and other places, sometimes for months at a time.

As a first generation American, a union job with benefits was better than most had, and it is certainly the reason I am standing here today. But the demands of my dad's job placed limitations on what my mom could do for work. Despite the wages and benefits secured by his union, my parents couldn't afford childcare for four girls. So my mom picked up jobs where she could to help make ends meet. Whether it was clerical work, cleaning homes, hostessing, or caring for kids, she did anything and everything possible to pay the bills while also making sure she was home to care for us when my dad was away.

Here is the thing: My family's story is not unique, not in the slightest. In fact, it is a story shared by millions of working families across our country who show up to work each day but

don't have the support they need to get ahead.

My mom's story is one that is shared by millions of working moms who want nothing more than to return to work and support their families but can't because the math doesn't work, giving them no choice but to stay at home and care for their families instead.

Mr. Speaker, under President Biden's leadership we are going to flip that script.

The infrastructure package he signed into law earlier this week will create millions of jobs with family sustaining wages and benefits by repairing our roads, our bridges, our water systems, and more.

But creating millions of jobs only works if workers are ready to fill them. That is why we are also working to pass the Build Back Better Act which will make unprecedented investments in working families. Families that continue to be the backbone of our country that we all have the honor of representing.

By expanding access to quality childcare, providing paid family and medical leave, establishing universal pre-K, and making home care affordable for our seniors, this legislation will propel parents—especially our working moms—back into the workforce and full participation in our economy.

By lowering healthcare costs and driving down prescription drug prices, the Build Back Better Act will ensure that families no longer have to choose between their health and their ability to put food on the table. By cutting taxes for low-income and middle-class Americans and extending the child tax credit payment that has served as a lifeline for so many, this package will keep money in families' pockets.

Passage of the Build Back Better Act will ensure that no one is left behind as we defeat COVID and rebuild our economy. That is why these provisions are supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans—Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. Like President Biden, they recognize that when we invest in working families, America wins.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to hear more about why they should support this bill, please let me know. My mom, Linda Loureiro, is happy to call you and tell you what the Build Back Better Act would have done for her and moms like yours 40 years ago and why we need to get it done for her children and her grandchildren today.

NATIONAL APPRENTICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who believe that the Build Back Better Act is going to make this country bet-

ter are trying to sell snake oil to the American people. There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker: You can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Frankly, the American people—some of them—have seen the light, and they understand that Build Back Better is going to bankrupt this country and that is not the way most Americans want to go. So we will see if the people who vote for Build Back Better have the real support of the American people next year if that bill passes.

Mr. Speaker, this is National Apprenticeship Week, and it is fitting that as the lead Republican on the Education and Labor Committee that we talk about the importance of apprenticeships.

As we know, apprenticeships have been around since the beginning of time and they have been much more used in other countries. They were much used in our country for a long, long time. Then the numbers of them decreased. However, in recent years more and more Americans have found that apprenticeship programs are an effective option to help achieve their career goals.

I have had people in my family go through apprenticeship programs, and I know for a fact how valuable they are. These earn-and-learn programs offer students and workers a viable path toward the American Dream, and it is very fitting that we should celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and highlight the apprenticeship programs across the country.

However, unfortunately, the Biden administration is proposing to end the program dedicated to expanding apprenticeships, cutting off this important pathway to sustainable and rewarding careers. By ending Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, or IRAP, President Biden is hurting workers and businesses nationwide. This decision moves our country backward and will keep many Americans from being able to prepare for their future.

Instead of ending IRAPs, we should be working to inject innovation and flexibility into the apprenticeship model so that more Americans can get back to work and achieve the American Dream, no putting roadblocks in their way. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more clear with every action of the Biden administration that the American worker is always going to take a backseat in President Biden's America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.